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**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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Inventor(s) : BLACKMAN, Michael, John et al.  
Title : FLUOROGENIC PROTEASE SUBSTRATES  
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Suite 2400  
1601 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2307  
(215) 563-4100 (telephone)  
(215) 563-4044 (facsimile)  
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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Before calculation of the filing fee, please amend the claims of the above-referenced patent application as follows: